

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk This Cinco de Mayo

*Remember to Designate a Sober Driver Before the 5th of May
Celebration Begins*

The Washington State Patrol will be joining with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies across the nation to remind all of those who plan on using alcohol during Cinco de Mayo festivities, to act responsibly by designating their sober drivers before going out to celebrate. With the 5th of May falling on a Friday evening, we don't want a weekend full of festivities possibly costing the life of someone on the roadways.

"Cinco de Mayo" has become a big night out for many, particularly young adults. But it is also a very dangerous night out because of alcohol or drug impaired drivers. That's why we are reminding those celebrating this year to be sure and designate their sober driver in advance – before the festivities begin.

Whether you are meeting a few friends after work at the neighborhood Mexican restaurant or attending some other kind of Cinco de Mayo celebration, if you plan on using alcohol, we want you to remember to never drive impaired – and to never let your friends drive if they show signs of impairment.

Driving involves multiple tasks; one must maintain alertness, make decisions based on ever-changing information as you travel down the roadway, and then execute maneuvers based on these decisions. Drinking alcohol impairs a wide range of skills necessary to safely drive down the roadway.

"Drinking and driving has serious consequences. The troopers assigned to District Eight of the Washington State Patrol will continue to locate and remove intoxicated drivers, especially during this Cinco de Mayo holiday weekend," stated Captain Mark Thomas, Commander of District Eight of the Washington State Patrol. "Last Cinco de Mayo weekend, troopers arrested 34 drivers for DUI, and responded to 4 DUI related collisions. It's my hope drivers get this message and choose to be responsible before they plan on drinking and driving."

District Eight

Clallam*Jefferson*Kitsap*Mason*Grays Harbor*Pacific*Wahkiakum

If you are planning to use alcohol on Cinco de Mayo:

- Remember to designate your sober driver before going out to celebrate;
- Be sure and eat during the evening; load up on the chips and salsa and other appetizers, and then enjoy your other favorite Mexican foods during the evening;
- If impaired, don't even think about getting behind the wheel. Ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend or family member to come and get you; or just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober;
- Take the keys and never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired.

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